

**Charter Review Commission
Minutes**

March 23, 2022

City Council Chambers
City Hall, 90 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio

(Audio recording available in the Office of the City Clerk)

Committee Members in Attendance:

Trudy Bartley, Chair
Desmond “Dez” Bryant
Keary McCarthy
Norwood “Buzz” Thomas
Nana Watson

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Commission Chair Bartley opened the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

Chair Bartley asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Mr. Bryant moved, Mr. McCarthy seconded. All voted in favor. Mr. Thomas was absent. Motion passed.

Old Business

Chair Bartley asked for a motion to adopt the City Charter amendment recommendations of the City Auditor, as presented in previous meetings. Ms. Watson moved, Mr. Bryant seconded. All voted in favor. Mr. Thomas was absent. Motion passed.

Presentations

Presentation by Michael Curtin, former Ohio State Representative, on the history of the citizen initiative process in Ohio and Columbus.

Follow-up conversation on the specifics of 2015 Ohio General Assembly legislation limiting initiative petitions and state constitutional amendments.

Presentation on the budget impact of Pro Energy Issue 7 Initiative by Joe Lombardi, Columbus’ Director of Finance and Management.

Follow-up conversation on legal action available to the city if initiative petitions similar to Issue 7 were to succeed, whether initiative petitions with a budgetary impact similar to Issue 7 have appeared before, the specifics of how initiative petitions requiring funding receive such funds, and how legislated expenditures are enforced.

Presentation by Deputy City Auditor Darlene Wildes of a letter written by Auditor Kilgore, addressed to Columbus voters, on the dangers of Issue 7 in Fall 2021.

Presentation by Lara Baker-Morrish, Chief Counsel, City Attorney's office, on initiative petitions and self-dealing under the City Charter. The presentation included recommendations from the City Attorney's office on amendments to the City Charter to address this topic.

Commission Discussion

Chair Bartley stated that the next meeting will be used to go into more depth on City Attorney recommendations, ask questions, and discuss possible recommendations by the commission.

John Oswalt, staff liaison, discussed future meeting dates, laying out a tentative plan to meet every two weeks on Wednesdays at 3:00pm. Public hearing suggested for mid-May to hear comments from residents.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Adjournment

Chair Bartley asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bryant moved, Mr. Thomas seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jacob Dilley, Legislative Analyst, City Clerk's office